Medicine Hat
The Gas City

Alberta's TOP 35 EMPLOYERS 2008

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WE'RE HAT SMART

City Teams Up for Energy Conservation

Medicine Hat – The City of Medicine Hat saved $18,689 in energy costs between April and September 2007.

For the past year, the City has been participating in Climate Change Central's Municipal Energy Efficiency Assistance Program (ME First). The ME First program provides financial assistance for energy saving projects for municipal infrastructure.

"Not only do we promote environmental stewardship in the community, but we try to do our part as a corporation to be HAT Smart environmental stewards," says Gerry Labas, Chief Administrative Officer.

The City launched its HAT Smart Environmental Initiatives Program earlier this year to educate and assist residents and utility customers in learning about initiatives that can help improve the environment and stretch their energy dollars.

The Corporate Asset Management department used the funding to:

- switch regular fluorescent lights to more energy efficient devices at 19 City facilities.
- replace 60 per cent efficient furnaces with 90 per cent efficient units at nine facilities.
- upgrade hot water tanks, install low-flow shower heads, low-flow sink faucets, new efficient HVAC systems, waterless urinals, occupancy sensors, and efficient air conditioning units at select facilities.

"City employees were also encouraged to do their part to reduce energy use, such as turning off lights when a room is not occupied," says Les Wickenheiser, General Manager of Corporate Asset Management.

The City monitored its electric and gas consumption and electric demand from April to September 2007 at 21 facilities and found:

- electric consumption reduced by 218,914 kilowatt hours (kWh) for a total savings of $17,207.
- gas consumption reduced by 422 gigajoules (GJ) for a total savings of $2,880.
- electric demand increased by 471 kVA for a total cost increase of $1,398.

- more -

Facilities that upgraded to more efficient lighting and heating systems saw the greatest decreases in consumption. In total, 10 facilities decreased their electric consumption, electric demand and gas consumption:

1. Corporate Asset Management/Fleet
2. Kinplex
3. Library
4. Police Service
5. Electric Utility
6. Esplanade
7. Environmental Utilities
8. Strathcona Centre
9. Municipal Works
10. Fire Station #2

"Financial savings are not the only benefits of being HAT Smart," adds Labas. "Being HAT Smart also means the City reduces maintenance costs, increases equipment life and building values, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change."

The City plans to continue to monitor its electric and gas consumption and work toward further efficiencies.

Learn more about what you can do to be HAT Smart at www.hatsmart.ca or visit the City's website www.medicinehat.ca

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